



# SAN BENITO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Don Kelley Chair District 1	Jim West District 2	Daniel Dungy Vice-Chair District 3	Debra Cable District 4	Wilbert White, Jr. District 5	Don Pidd Historical Society	Richard Gallagher Veterans Park Commission	Youth Rep. San Benito HS	Youth Rep San Benito HS
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*San Benito County Board Chamber – 481 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Hollister, CA 95023*

## REGULAR MEETING ACTION MINUTES February 15, 2011

1. **Call To Order** at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Don Kelley.

1.1 **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Kelley.

1.2 **Roll Call**

Present: Commissioners Don Kelley, Jim West, Dan Dungy, Debra Cable, Don Pidd; Commissioner White joined the meeting during Public Comment.

Absent: Richard Gallagher

Also Present: Management Analyst Janelle Cox, Public Works Administrator Steve Wittry

1.3 **Acknowledge Certificate of Posting**

The Agenda was posted on February 10, 2011 by 5:00 p.m. at the San Benito County Free Library, San Benito County Courthouse, and San Benito County Administration Building, per Government Code Section 54954.2 (A).

*A motion to acknowledge the Certificate of Posting was made by Commissioner West and seconded by Commissioner Dungy. Motion passed 5-0.*

2. **Public Comment**

- 2.1 Ray Pierce addressed the Commission and proposed a couple of suggestions for additional public awareness efforts: (1) Set up a Facebook page. Suggested titling the page, "I Love San Benito County Parks". Set up multiple administrators so that content can be added to the page. Ray volunteered to be an administrator; (2) Establish a tree planting program, whereby the County purchases trees and then resells to people who want to donate to the purchase and planting of the tree. Noted that a specific plan would be necessary to establish tree locations, before the program could be implemented.

Chair Kelley noted that the items would be brought forward at a future meeting.

### **3. Consent Items**

#### **3.1 Approval of Minutes of January 18, 2011 Meeting**

Commissioner Dungy requested the addition of the action by the Commission to appoint him as Vice-Chair. Additionally, pertaining to Item 6.2, administrative support of the Commission reassigned to County Administration Office, the minutes did not note if the motion was passed. Janelle will make the changes to the January 18, 2011 minutes.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Dungy and seconded by Commissioner Pidd to approve the Consent Items. The motion passed 6 – 0.*

### **4. Staff Announcements – Information Only**

#### **4.1 Lunch With Leaders – March 16, 2011**

Chair Kelley noted that the Parks and Recreation Commission and Hollister Hills are the key note speakers at the March 16, 2011 Lunch With Leaders. The lunch, sponsored by Graniterock, will be held at San Juan Oaks. Lunch is \$10 and is prepaid at the Chamber of Commerce. Chair Kelley noted that this is a great opportunity to promote the public outreach efforts pertaining to the Proposition 84 grant applications and commended Graniterock for the good public outreach effort.

#### **4.2 Master Plan for Distribution**

Janelle distributed bound copies of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan to each Commissioner. Commissioner Pidd suggested that the document be uploaded on the County's Parks and Recreation Commission website. Chair Kelley noted that the document was created by the public, integrating input from community meetings and surveys conducted.

### **5. Commission Announcements, Introductions, and Presentations – Information Only**

#### **5.1 Veterans Park Commission Update**

Steve provided an overview of the status of the capital projects in progress at the park. Twenty foot high nets will be installed between the soccer field and the large softball field as a safety measure. This project is being constructed in partnership with the City and the Tremors, who are contributing toward the project cost. Want to complete by March 31, prior to start of adult league. The agreements with the ball leagues have been extended for an additional year, to complete the negotiations on water usage. Improvements to be completed at the Bertha Briggs Building include an outdoor patio and bar-b-que area, and the department intends to review its fee schedule for the use of the facility. Chair Kelley commended the work completed on the structures and Steve noted that most of the work was performed by County staff. The bridge from Marne Lane will be installed in the next 10 days. Playground equipment has been tagged and the community offered to perform the maintenance! Commissioner Dungy commended the users for supporting the park.

#### **5.2 Historical Society Update**

Commissioner Pidd reported that the Garcia House Visitor Center will be completed in the next 30 – 45 days. Efforts are underway this year to partner with youth groups, involving them with the park. Steve reported that the California Conservation Corp will be out there to clear the path for the hiking trail the first

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week in March. Public Works is also partnering with Hollister Hills to blaze the trail with a piece of their equipment.

Ray Pierce, public member, inquired if a copy of the MOU between Historical Society and County has been located and if a specific plan has been submitted. Commissioner Pidd reported the specific plan is in process. Janelle will research the existence of an agreement between the Historical Society and the County and coordinate development of the MOU with Commissioner Pidd.

## **6. Discussion Items**

### **6.1 Coordination with City Parks and Recreation Commission**

Janelle reported that this is a request from Intergovernmental Council for this Commission and the City's Parks and Recreation Commission to appoint (2) members each to an Ad Hoc Committee to discuss and develop collaboration efforts.

Commissioners White and Kelley volunteered to be members of the Ad Hoc Committee.

### **6.2 Presentation on Bolado Park Golf Course**

Mark Neal, First Tee program, presented his program to the Board. This program is an initiative of the World Golf Federation and promotes character in youth, teaching them team work, life enhancing values, centered around a golf course. Mr. Neal noted that San Benito County is perfect for the program: 55,000 population; 8% (4,400) under age 5; 29% (16,000) under 18. The program is supported by recurring funding sources: donations, participation fees, annual golf events. To County the program results in recurring revenue from tax receipts, use fees, rental income. To initiate the program in San Benito County the following needs to occur: a manager hired, a Charter established, nonprofit status approved, golf course, volunteers, donors, and sponsors! Mr. Neal wanted to know how the commission feels about the program and how it might be able to work together to implement the program. Chair Kelley noted that the commission was asked to evaluate the program and determine if it, (1) wants to get involved with this program; (2) and if so, how? He suggested that commissioners start thinking about opportunities and ideas and get public input to determine if they believe the County should get involved and then, how. Maybe there is an opportunity for an MOU. Maybe the County could include this project in a Proposition 84 grant application. Mr. Neal noted that he would like the commission to support idea of bringing in First Tee and recommend Bolado Golf Course as the site, as a 9-hole course is best for the program.

Commissioner Dungy noted kids are reached in different ways and this is just another way. This is a great way to help with crime, obesity, health issues. Believes it is a good for this County and recommends support.

Public Comment: Natalie Lohi, single mother of 10-year old whose son loves golf! To have this program in the community is a great opportunity. Ray Pierce noted that this program fulfills a component of the master plan by creating partnerships! Jeff Arnold commended the Commission on its fantastic work.

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Commissioner Pidd, asked if this project qualifies for Proposition 84 grant application in partnership?

Chair Kelley made a motion that the Commission issues written support of First T and to look for avenues to partner with First T, and the State of California and the 33<sup>rd</sup> District, to coordinate elements into a partnership. Commissioner Dungy seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

### 6.3 Youth Commissioner Applications

Janelle reported that there are two applications, Daniel Modic and Jesse Vallejo. Since the previous process included interviews of the applicants, sample questions were provided for consideration by the Commission. Commissioner Dungy noted that he liked the interview process and volunteered to participate. Commissioner Pidd also volunteered. Janelle will set up the interviews. Noted that there are applications from a student attending Anzar and San Benito high schools!

### 6.4 McCarthy Park Plaque and Grand Opening

Steve Wittry reported that there has been a request by one of the Board Members to commemorate the Board and City Council working together on this project with a plaque, including previous Board and Council Members. Commissioner Dungy asked if the funding source can also be included on the plaque. Steve noted that all Proposition 40 funded projects will have a large, temporary sign regarding the funding. Commissioner Dungy noted that he wanted to inform residents that the park is the result of the initiative process, of California voting to approve parks. Commissioner West offered to provide or help move the rock for the plaque.

No public comment.

Commissioner West made a motion to approve the plaque and grand opening ceremony, second by Commissioner White. Commissioner Dungy requested that language about voter approval of funding be included. Motion passed 6 – 0.

### 6.5 Proposition 84 Grant Application

Janelle introduced the item, noting that Administration is looking for direction from the Commission as to the number and type of applications to be submitted and the breadth of the river parkway application. Steve Wittry reported that last year Public Works submitted only one application – for the river parkway. He noted the projects that were approved last year focus on blighted areas. Steve suggested that the Commission consider applications for renovation of Veterans Memorial Park and Historical Park. He also suggested the Commission consider a joint project with the City on the Brigantino property. Get letters of recommendation, including from Health and Human Services.

Commissioner Dungy asked why the previous application was not approved. Steve noted the following reasons: construction of the bridge at Union, questions about the “tightness” of the budget numbers, and wanted more coordination with water agencies. Commissioner West requested a copy of the previous application.

Commissioner West recommended the submission of several applications. Commissioner Dungy agreed, and supports cooperation with HHSA. Accessibility (not having to drive children somewhere) is a feature that he believes is also important. Chair Kelley agreed with the submission of multiple applications and made several proposals: Does not want to submit applications that compete with themselves. Look at projects in Master Plan and apply for funding to complete them. Suggests submitting an application for the complete river parkway project, to minimize the number of CEQA processes. Coordinate the river parkway with the Brigantino property. Investigate if possible to link application with the Hollister Hills project. Consider a potential project with the YMCA, as well as other user groups. Coordinate with economic development, work with Sheriff, Gang Task Force, etc. Build support within our user groups for the projects – make sure we are doing what the public wants! Reach out to community, look at what's the best need for the entire community, and do through cooperative efforts, if necessary! Demonstrate community need and effort!

To clarify, Steve asked if the Commission wants the County to proceed with application for river parkway, as it is noted in the master plan and we will look to community as to what they want to see. Commissioner Kelley, agreed, yes want development of a river parkway and regional park, to include sports facilities, which will tie the project to the economic development of the community.

Commissioner Dungy suggested that the next Commission meeting be held as a community input session for Proposition 84. Agreed to consider projects in the master plan, confirm still a priority, and identify components the community wants.

Ray Pierce, public comment. Believes integrating Hollister Hills buffer area, adds a project before implementation of the existing master plan is complete. Mr. Pierce noted that the length of the river parkway, from Historical Park to 4<sup>th</sup> street, lends itself to lots of different uses. Also, Brigantino site is owned by the City, but in County. If did any development here, would tax dollars come back to the County? The regional park would benefit the County economically.

Jeff Arnold, YMCA, supports the projects. Jeff as a citizen, encourages the County to look over the numbers closely, since there were issues in the last grant application. Steve noted that whether the YMCA partners with the County on these grant applications, or not, there is opportunity for nonprofits to receive grant funding.

Commissioner Dungy clarified that the Hollister Hills buffer zone project, really is a separate project from those in the County's master plan and not to be mixed.

#### 6.6 Off-Highway Vehicle Grants: Enforcement and Restoration

Janelle reported that the grant applications are for support of existing off-highway vehicle facilities or development of new. County submitting a law enforcement application and a restoration planning grant, including the restoration planning with a river parkway project specific master plan.

No public comments.

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Commissioner West made a Motion to forward recommendation to submit grant applications for law enforcement and restoration planning to the Board of Supervisors. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pidd. Motion passed 6 – 0.

**6.7 River Parkway/Regional Park Workplans**

Janelle summarized project goals and asked for direction as to next steps. Commissioner Kelley noted that the Commission would like the land acquisition efforts to proceed. Initial contact has been made with land owners. Would like the negotiations and discussions with land owners to be reinitiated. Commissioner Dungy concurred the land acquisition is a good start. Janelle will research status of Granite Rock reclamation plan.

Membership of project team or advisory committee was discussed. Include: user groups, City of Hollister, school districts, sports leagues, COG, YMCA, dog park community, adjacent property owners, Police and County Sheriff, Fish and Game, GIS representative, all others that would benefit from the facility. Commission recommends one advisory committee, looking at both projects, as they will interact with one another. Could split later as needed, or have sub-committees.

Janelle to return at the next commission meeting with a list of people to invite to the advisory committee. Commissioners to send recommendations to Janelle for inclusion. Look back at notes from the Commission retreat of July 2009.

**7. Adjournment**

- 7.1** Commissioner West asked if Old Stage Road and its maintenance could be placed on future agenda. Don noted that he purchased a book, IMBA's Guide to Building Trails, which appears to be a great resource.

Commissioner West made motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cable seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.